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## THE RADCLIFFE CATALOGUE FOR 1890.

This catalogue contains the positions of 6424 stars, from observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, under the direction of E. J. STONE, formerly Director of the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope.

The list is intended to include all stars, down to the 7th magnitude, from the equator to  $25^{\circ}$  South Declination. In general, three observations have been given to each star, besides the much larger number for the fundamental stars, used for the determination of clock error and instrumental errors. The observations were made during the fourteen years from 1880 to 1893, inclusive, and have been reduced to the epoch 1890. The precession and secular variation are given for every star; and proper motion, when it appears to exist, by comparison with other catalogues.

The Right Ascensions depend upon the lists of the Greenwich Observatory, corrected by a constant obtained from observations of the Sun, extending over the greater part of the period.

The Declinations, or North Polar Distances of the catalogue, are obtained from observations of the zenith point, with a constant value of the N. P. D. of the zenith.

A comparison of the places deduced from upper and lower culminations, would indicate, as needed, a diminution of BESSEL'S refractions of 0.0035.

This, it may be noted, would bring the refraction corrections nearly into accord with those of the Pulkowa tables, which are based upon a constant 0.0027 less than that of BESSEL.

R. H. T.

## THE ASTRONOMICAL PRIZES OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY.

The Astronomical prizes of the French Academy of Sciences for the year 1894 have been awarded as follows:

The LALANDE prize, value, 540 francs, to M. JAVELLE, an astronomer in the Nice Observatory, for his observations of faint nebulae with the 30-inch equatorial. Since 1890, M. JAVELLE has discovered and accurately determined the positions of 1100 nebulae in the zone comprised between Declinations  $+30^{\circ}$  and  $-15^{\circ}$ .

The DAMOISEAU prize, value, 1500 francs, to M. BRENDÉL, for perfecting methods of rapidly calculating approximate values